

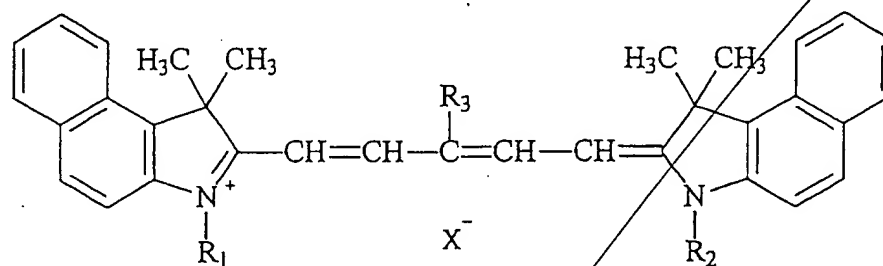
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A cyanine dye represented by

Formula 1:

Formula 1:



B6 where in Formula 1, R₁ denotes a methyl or ethyl group; R₂ differs from R₁ and denotes a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group; R₃ is hydrogen atom or a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogens and lower-alkyl groups; X⁻ denotes an anion excluding BF₄, containing fluorine or an element of group 5a in the periodic table.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

B7 3. (Amended) The cyanine dye of claim 1 or 2, which substantially absorbs a visible light at a wavelength of around 780 nm when in a thin layer form.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) A composition for light absorption comprising as active ingredient, a cyanine dye of claims 1 to 4.

[Please amend claim 6 as follows:]

6. (Amended) The composition of claim 5, which is sensitive to a laser beam with a wavelength of around 780 nm when in a thin layer form.

B8 [Please amend claim 7 as follows:]

7. (Amended) A composition for optical recording medium comprising as active ingredient a cyanine dye of claims 1 to 4. C

[Please amend claim 8 as follows:]

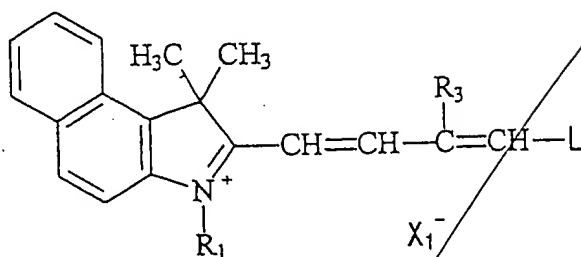
8. (Amended) The optical recording medium of claim 7, which includes an appropriate light resistant improver.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

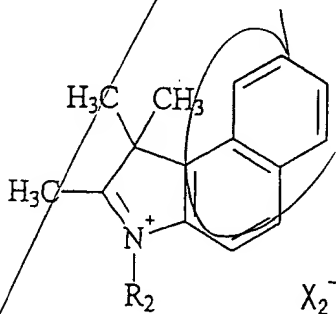
B9 10. (Amended) A process for producing a cyanine dye pf claims 1 to 4, which comprises a step of reacting a compound represented by Formula 2, having R₁ and R₃ as defined in Formula 1, with a compound

represented by Formula 3 having R_2 as defined in Formula 1:

Formula 2:



Formula 3:



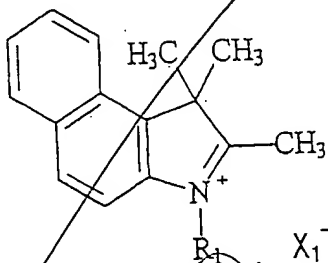
where in Formulae 2 and 3, X_1^- and X_2^- denote appropriate counter ions, and L denotes an appropriate leaving group.

[Please amend claim 11 as follows:]

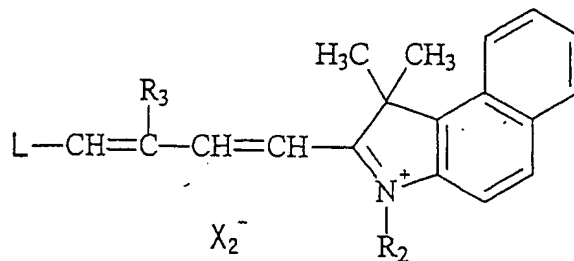
11. (Amended) The process for producing a cyanine dye of claims 1 to 4, which comprises a step of reacting a compound represented by Formula 4, having R_1 as

compound represented by Formula 5 having R_2 and R_3 as
defined in Formula 1:

Formula 4:



Formula 5:



B9
Conf.